

France

Ethnicity in France

Group selection

We identify the following politically relevant ethnic groups in France: **French**, **Basques**, **Corsicans**, and **Roma**. The Basque population constitutes 0.4% of the total French Population (²⁰⁰⁷).

²⁰⁰⁷ [Institut Culturel Basque, 2009]

Power relations

1946-1961

Due to their dominant political position in France, the ethnic French are coded as holding the power monopoly for all years - no sign was found for the explicit or implicit inclusion of other ethnicities into the national executive.

The Basques, represented by several political parties (such as the Abertzaleen Batasuna), were not integrated into any national government since 1946, and are therefore coded as being powerless. As opposed to Basques in Spain who enjoy regional autonomy from Madrid, Basques in France, do not have regional autonomy; although the Basque region has become a "pays" in 1997, it lacks fundamental budgetary powers for self-governance. Similarly, Basques political parties have been much more vocal in Spain as regarding their autonomy and seeing independence compared to France Basque Country where the majority of French Basques live.

The Roma are coded as being discriminated throughout. Until 2012, the voting rights of the Roma population were severely curtailed, as Non-French, European Roma had live in one place for three year in order to be allowed to vote in municipal elections, much longer than the lawful 6 months. The restriction of the fraction of Roma being able to live in one locality to a maximum of 3 percent, in place still today, severely restricts the capability of gaining access to the political system available to the Roma population (²⁰⁰⁸). In addition to these direct political discrimination, the Roma in France experience violations of their human rights with regard to housing and education and are subject of discriminatory executive practices and discourses. Since 2010, it has become executive practice to deport non-French Roma to their countries of origin, even if this puts them at risk of discrimination and violence (²⁰⁰⁹; ²⁰¹⁰). The US State Department highlights some of the issues regarding Roma people in France which are quite concerning, depicting France's policy towards Roma as one of the harshest in Europe.

²⁰⁰⁸ [Open Society Foundation, 2013]

²⁰⁰⁹ [Bennett, 2011]

²⁰¹⁰ [Korando, 2012]

There is widespread intolerance and racism towards Roma by private citizens as well as state authorities. For example, in March of 2019, a Romani camp near Paris was attacked from unknown groups after the spread of false rumors that Roma were kidnapping children. Also, state authorities continue to demolish camps inhabited by Roma ⁽²⁰¹¹⁾. The Roma population in France is still considered to be discriminated politically as the 3% rule still applied and the “Travellers” (Gens de Voyage) still build their own administrative category with the obligation to present their “Traveller booklet” at a police station at least once per year ⁽²⁰¹²⁾.

²⁰¹¹ [U.S. State Department, 2019]

²⁰¹² [Open Society Foundation, 2017]

1962-1991

A new period was introduced when the Corsician people gained relevance since the 60s, when movements for Corse nationalism and independence emerged. This movement saw outbreaks of political violence in the 70s. So far, Corse political agents or organizations were never included in the national executive, so the group is coded as being powerless for all years.

1992-2021

In 1991 a new statute was adopted by the French parliament, granting the island of Corsica the special status of a territorial collectivity, so that Corse people are coded as having regional autonomy status. However, the quest for more autonomy has gained momentum following the victory of nationalist political parties during the regional elections in 2017. The governing For Corsica alliance which won the majority (56.5) of the votes, reiterated that they seek greater autonomy and not independence. By this they want among others an equal status of French and Corsican language, amnesty for Corsica political prisoners and a Corsican resident status which aims at preventing French investors from buying property in Corsica ⁽²⁰¹³⁾. Nevertheless, as the demands for greater autonomy increased, the current President of France, Emmanuel Macron during his two day visit in 2018, ruled out the possibility of great autonomy or fulfilment of such demands ⁽²⁰¹⁴⁾.

²⁰¹³ [BBC News, 2017]

²⁰¹⁴ [Deutsche Welle, 2018]

Bibliography

- [Deutsche Welle, 2018] Deutsche Welle. (2018). Inside Europe: Corsica and its quest for more autonomy. Retrieved on 25.10.2020 from <https://www.dw.com/en/inside-europe-corsica-and-its-quest-for-more-autonomy/av-42516499>
- [BBC News, 2017] BBC News. (2017). Nationalists win Corsica election in challenge for France. Retrieved on 25.10.2020 from <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-42307274>
- [U.S. State Department, 2019] U.S. State Department. (2019). 2019 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: France. Retrieved on 25.10.2020 from <https://www.state.gov/reports/2019-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/france/>.
- [Bennett, 2011] Bennett, Q. (2011). Please Don't Be Our Guest: The Roma Expulsion from France Under European Union Law. Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law, 40, 219–246.
- [Daftary, 2000] Daftary, F. (2000). Insular autonomy: a framework for conflict settlement? A comparative study of Corsica and the Inland Islands. ECMI Working Paper #9.
- [Institut Culturel Basque, 2009] Institut Culturel Basque. (2009). Population du Pays Basque nord. Retrieved on 14.08.2017 from: http://www.eke.eus/fr/culture-basque/pays-basque/pays-basque-nord-ou-iparralde/iparralde_biztanlegoa.
- [Korando, 2012] Korando, A. M. (2012). Roma go home: The plight of European Roma. Law & Ineq., 30, 125.
- [Open Society Foundation, 2013] Open Society Foundation. (2013). Roma in Political Life: France—Gens du Voyage and the Roma of France. Retrieved on 18.12.2014 from: <http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/voices/roma-political-life-france-gens-du-voyage-and-roma-france>.
- [Open Society Foundation, 2017] Open Society Foundation. (2017). The politics of being Roma in France. Retrieved on 14.08.2017 from: <https://www.opendemocracy.net/can-europe-make-it/radost-zaharieva/politics-of-being-roma-in-france>.

Political status of ethnic groups in France

From 1946 until 1961

| Group name | Proportional size | Political status |
|------------|-------------------|------------------|
| French | 0.976 | MONOPOLY |
| Roma | 0.006 | DISCRIMINATED |
| Basques | 0.004 | POWERLESS |

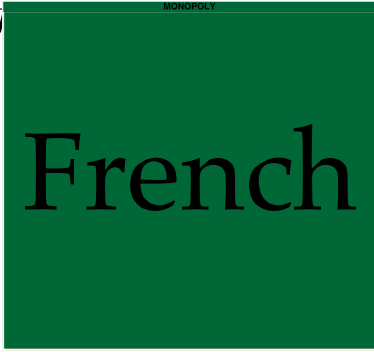


Figure 373: Political status of ethnic groups in France during 1946-1961.

From 1962 until 1991

| Group name | Proportional size | Political status |
|------------|-------------------|------------------|
| French | 0.976 | MONOPOLY |
| Roma | 0.006 | DISCRIMINATED |
| Basques | 0.004 | POWERLESS |
| Corsicans | 0.004 | POWERLESS |

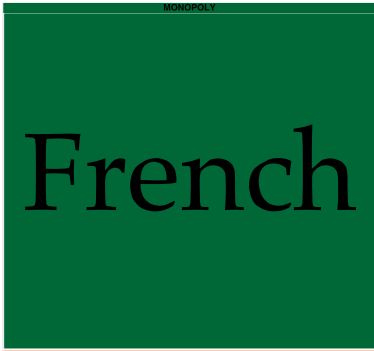


Figure 374: Political status of ethnic groups in France during 1962-1991.

From 1992 until 2021

| Group name | Proportional size | Political status |
|------------|-------------------|------------------|
| French | 0.976 | MONOPOLY |
| Roma | 0.006 | DISCRIMINATED |
| Basques | 0.004 | POWERLESS |
| Corsicans | 0.004 | POWERLESS |

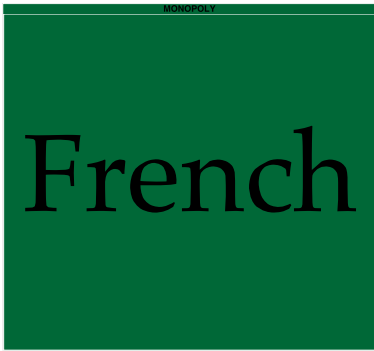


Figure 375: Political status of ethnic groups in France during 1992-2021.

Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in France

From 1946 until 1961

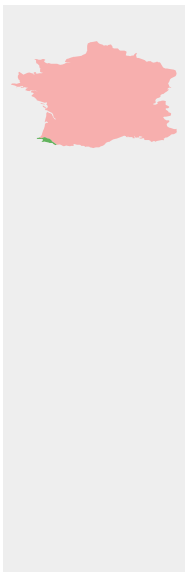


Figure 376: Map of ethnic groups in France during 1946-1961.

| Group name | | Area in km ² | Type |
|-------------|---------|-------------------------|------------------|
| <div></div> | French | 512 188 | Regionally based |
| <div></div> | Basques | 2577 | Regional & urban |
| <div></div> | Roma | 0 | Migrant |

Table 134: List of ethnic groups in France during 1946-1961.

From 1962 until 2021

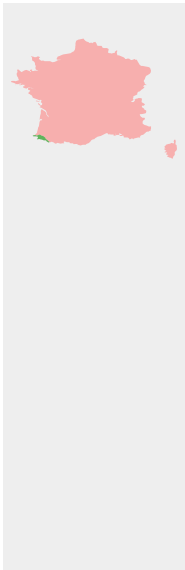


Figure 377: Map of ethnic groups in France during 1962-2021.

| Group name | | Area in km ² | Type |
|-------------|-----------|-------------------------|------------------|
| <div></div> | French | 512 188 | Regionally based |
| <div></div> | Corsicans | 8776 | Regional & urban |
| <div></div> | Basques | 2577 | Regional & urban |
| <div></div> | Roma | 0 | Migrant |

Table 135: List of ethnic groups in France during 1962-2021.

Conflicts in France

Starting on 1946-05-06

| Side A | Side B | Group name | Start | Claim | Recruitment | Support |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------|------------|-------|-------------|---------|
| Government of France | Government of Thailand | | 1946-05-06 | | | |

Starting on 1956-10-30

| Side A | Side B | Group name | Start | Claim | Recruitment | Support |
|---------------------|------------------------------|------------|------------|-------|-------------|---------|
| Government of Egypt | Government of France | | 1956-10-30 | | | |
| Government of Egypt | Government of Israel | | 1956-10-30 | | | |
| Government of Egypt | Government of United Kingdom | | 1956-10-30 | | | |

Starting on 1961-04-21

| Side A | Side B | Group name | Start | Claim | Recruitment | Support |
|----------------------|--------|------------|------------|-------|----------------|---------|
| Government of France | OAS | French | 1961-04-21 | No | Yes, from EGIP | No |

Starting on 1961-07-19

| Side A | Side B | Group name | Start | Claim | Recruitment | Support |
|----------------------|-----------------------|------------|------------|-------|-------------|---------|
| Government of France | Government of Tunisia | | 1961-07-19 | | | |